

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

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SS-15 STR-08 CEA-02 DRC-01 /160 W

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R 190911Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8094

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 10698

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, RP, UR

SUBJECG: USSR-PHILIPPINE TRADE AGREEMENT

1. PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS ANNOUNCED, IN A MOVE CALCULATED TO CREATE COMMENT, THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED "IN PRINCIPLE" THE PROPOSED USSR-PHILIPPINE TRADE AGREEMENT SUBMITTED TO GOP BY VISITING SOVIET OIL AND TRADE DELEGATION. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF A TOAST OFFERED BY THE PRESIDENT AT A HASTILY CONVENED FAREWELL DINNER FOR THE SOVIET DELEGATION HELD AT MALACANANG PALACE SEPT. 18.

2. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TOAST, MARCOS SENT HIS APPOINTMENTS SECRETARY SCURRYING OVER TO MY TABLE TO TELL ME THAT THE RHETORICAL GESTURE WAS LARGELY POLITESSE AND THAT THE ONLY ACTION CURRENTLY CONTEMPLATED WAS TO SEND A FILIPINO MISSION TO MOSCOW TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD ENGLISH SPOKEN WITH FORKED
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TONGUE SINCE WE AMERICANS HAD INVENTED THE DIALECT, BUT

WONDERED WHO WAS GOING TO TRANSLATE IT TO THE CHINESE. THIS QUERY PROMPTED THE OBSERVATION THAT ANY TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH THE SOVIETS WOULD BE SIMULTANEOUS WITH AN AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED WITH THE CHINESE. SINCE THERE IS, OF COURSE, NO RPT NO FORWARD MOVEMENT ON ANY SUCH AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE, THIS APPARENTLY MEANS AN INDEFINITE WAIT FOR THE SOVIETS.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL SUBMIT A REPORT ON SOVIET TRADE MISSION SOJOURN HERE GIVING STUDIED APPRAISAL ITS CONSEQUENCES. AT FIRST BLUSH, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH PHILS INVITED MISSION PRIMARILY TO INVOLVE "SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" IN BALANCED EXPLOITATION OF PHIL PETROLEUM POTENTIAL, A SUBJECT IN WHICH SOVIETS DISPLAYED A LOFTY DISINTEREST. INSTEAD, SOVIETS USED VISIT TO TRY TO ESTABLISH PERMANENT OFFICIAL PRESENCE HERE IN FORM OF TRADE OFFICE. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THEY OFFERED RATHER TEMPTING TRADE AGREEMENT (PAYMENTS IN CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES, ETC.). PHILS, IN TURN, SEEM TO BE TRYING TO USE SOVIET INITIATIVE TO PROD PEKING TOWARDS MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE WITH RESPECT CHINA-PHILIPPINE TRADE RELATIONS.
SULLIVAN

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